

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference FP18703:JPS:TJS:NMT	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416).
International Application No. PCT/AU2003/001440	International Filing Date (day/month/year) 31 October 2003	Priority Date (day/month/year) 31 October 2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC Int. Cl. ⁷ B60R 22/22, 22/26; B60N 2/42, 2/427; B64D 25/06; B61D 33/00		
Applicant G & J LEWIS ENTERPRISES PTY LTD et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheet(s).

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 31 May 2004	Date of completion of the report 7 December 2004
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized Officer D.R. LUM Telephone No. (02) 6283 2544

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/AU2003/001440**I. Basis of the report****1. With regard to the elements of the international application:***

- ☐ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description, pages 1-11, as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☒ the claims, pages , as originally filed,
pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages 13, received on 15 November 2004 with the letter of 15 November 2004
- ☒ the drawings, pages 1-8, as originally filed,
pages , filed with the demand,
pages , received on with the letter of
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages , as originally filed
pages , filed with the demand
pages , received on with the letter of

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages
- ☐ the claims, Nos.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU2003/001440

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 1-6	YES
	Claims	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-6	YES
	Claims	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-6	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Claims 1-6 meet the criteria set forth in PCT Article 33(2) – (4) for novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. The prior art published before the priority date does not disclose a support member arranged to provide suspension and being movable relative to the seat frame, and a link means connected between the support member and the seat back to prevent motion of the seat back beyond a predetermined position.

CLAIMS

1. A vehicle seat arrangement, comprising a seat frame, including a seat base and a seat back, and a support member arranged to be mounted relative to a vehicle proximate the seat back, and a link means connected between the support member and the seat back, and being arranged to prevent motion of the seat back beyond the predetermined position.
2. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the link means is a mechanical scissor link.
3. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with claim 1, wherein the link means includes a recliner mechanism.
4. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with claim 1, 2 or 3, the link means being strong enough to resist motion of the seat frame relative to the support member beyond a predetermined position when a load is applied to the seat back such as may be applied by a seat belt mounting of the seat back in a vehicle accident.
5. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, including an integral seat belt.
6. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, being a suspension seat and including a suspension arrangement the same member of which forms the support member.
7. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with any one of the preceding claims, wherein the link means is positioned remote from a pivot connection between the seat back and the seat base.
8. A vehicle seat arrangement, including a seat frame and a tether means, the tether means being arranged to be mounted between the seat frame and a vehicle body and the tether means including a tether strap and a retractor mechanism enabling the tether strap to extend or retract in accordance with allowed motion of the seat frame.
9. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with claim 8, wherein the retractor mechanism is an inertia reel mechanism.

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10. A vehicle seat arrangement in accordance with claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the seat frame includes a seat back and a seat base and a seat support supporting the seat back and seat base, and wherein the tether means is
5 mounted to the seat support, and wherein a link means is provided between the seat back and the seat support, the link means being extendable to a pre-determined position, but not extendable past the pre-determined position whereby to constrain the seat back relative to the seat
10 support.
11. A seat arrangement in accordance with claim 10, wherein the seat support also mounts a suspension arrangement.
12. A seat arrangement in accordance with claim 10 or
15 claim 11, wherein the link means comprises a recliner mechanism.
13. A seat arrangement in accordance with anyone of claims 8 to 13, wherein the seat arrangement includes an integrated seat belt.
- 20 14. A seat arrangement in accordance with claim 3 wherein the integrated seat belt is a lap-sash type seat belt or a harness.
15. A seat arrangement in accordance with any one claims 8 to 14, wherein the tether means is height adjustable.
- 25 16. A seat arrangement in accordance with claim 15, further comprising a roller or guide over which the tether strap passes, the roller or guide being height adjustable, to adjust the effective height of the tether strap.
17. A tether arrangement for anchoring a vehicle seat to
30 a vehicle body, the tether arrangement being arranged to be mounted between the seat and vehicle body and including a tether strap and a retractor mechanism enabling the tether strap to extend or retract in accordance with allowed motion of the seat.